

Appl. No. 10/825,792
Docket No. 9215
Amdt. dated December 6, 2007
Reply to Office Action of 7/6/07
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;
the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;
the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;
the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;
the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and wherein the plurality of projections are oriented in staggered rows.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows transverse to the longitudinal axis of the brush.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows generally parallel with the longitudinal axis of the brush.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 15, wherein the plurality of projections cover a substantial portion of the bottom face.

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Claim 17 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 15, wherein the entire plurality of projections are uniform in shape.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 18, wherein the plurality of projections are nubs.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 20, wherein the head further comprises outwardly extending elastomeric ridge-like elements.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 21, wherein the ridge-like elements are arcuate.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the handle comprises a motor.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 23, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;

the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;

the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;

the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;

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the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;
the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and wherein the plurality of projections are generally oriented in rows transverse to the longitudinal axis of the brush, and wherein the transverse rows are staggered.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 27, wherein the head further comprises arcuate elastomeric ridge-like elements.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 25, wherein the handle comprises a motor, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:
an elongate handle and a head;
the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;
the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;
the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;
the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and
wherein the plurality of projections are generally oriented in rows parallel with the longitudinal axis of the brush, and wherein the parallel rows are staggered.

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Claim 31 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 30, wherein the handle comprises a motor, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 31, wherein the motor imparts a pulsing motion to the massaging surface.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:
an elongate handle and a head;
the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;
the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging plate wherein a side wall exists between the brushing surface and a surface of the massaging plate;
the brushing surface comprising a collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;
wherein said massaging plate has a surface that comprises a plurality of projections; and
wherein the plurality of projections are oriented in staggered rows.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 33, wherein the massaging plate is secured to the bottom face of the toothbrush head.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 34, wherein the massaging plate has a top surface that is generally coplanar with the bottom face of the toothbrush head.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 35, wherein the massaging plate is formed from an elastomeric material and the toothbrush head is formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene,

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acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, cellulose acetate propionate, a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoplastic olefin, a thermoplastic polyolefin, ethylene-vinylacetate copolymer, ethylene propylene rubber, and combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 36, wherein the massaging plate is elongate.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 38, wherein the top face further comprises a plurality of elastomeric elements.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 40, wherein the bottom face is generally planar.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 41, wherein the top face is generally planar.

Claim 43 (canceled)